

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04650 132238Z  
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 ACDA-07 IGA-02 /031 W  
-----042793 140330Z /65

R 132210Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5046  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4650

SECDEF FOR DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS EC  
SUBJ: JUSTIFICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO FMS POLICY--T-33 OVERHAUL  
FOR FAE

REF: (A) SECDEF MSG 242013Z JUN 77; (B) USMLO MSG 301230Z  
JUN 77; (C) USMLO MSG 152000Z OCT 76;

1. EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT REF (B) RESPONDS ADEQUATELY TO QUESTIONS  
RAISED IN PARA 1 OF REF (A). WITH REGARD TO COMMENT THAT  
REQUEST FROM ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) WILL NOT SATISFY  
DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS, DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS DOD SHOULD BE  
AWARE OF GOE METHOD OF DIVIDING AVAILABLE FMS CREDITS. THE FAE  
IS THE SOLE AND ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER HOW IT UTILIZES ITS  
ONE-THIRD OF FMS CREDIT FUNDS. IN ADDITION, FAE COMMANDER  
BG LUIS LEORO IS A MEMBER OF THE RULING SUPREME COUNCIL AND,  
AS SUCH, REQUESTS SIGNED BY HIM CARRY THE FORCE OF GOE ACTION.

2. EMBASSY JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ESTABLISHED FMS  
CREDIT POLICY IN THIS CASE IS BASED ON BOTH POLITICAL AND  
PRACTICAL FACTORS. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE THE  
FAE AND BG LEORO HAVE BEEN UPSET FOR SOME TIME WITH NEGA-  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 04650 132238Z

TIVE USG DECISIONS ON THE PURCHASE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.  
AT THE SAME TIME AS WE PROCRASTINATE OR MAKE NEGATIVE  
DECISIONS ON MAJOR AIRCRAFT PURCHASES ON POLICY GROUNDS,  
WE ASSURE THE FAE OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT.  
THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS T-33 OVERHAUL REQUEST  
REPRESENTS ANOTHER TEST OF OUR SINCERITY IN FAE EYES.  
IF IT IS DENIED, BG LEORO AND OTHERS WILL MAKE THE CASE

THAT THE DENIAL IS FURTHER PROOF OF US ANTAGONISM TOWARD ECUADOR. JUSTIFICATION OF THAT DECISION ON THE SOMEWHAT ABSTRUSE REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF FMS CREDIT FUNDS WILL SIMPLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD OR ACCEPTED.

3. IN ADDITION TO OUR CONCERN OVER MAINTAINING INFLUENCE WITH THE FAE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USE OF FMS CREDITS TO OVERHAUL THE T-33 AIRCRAFT IS DEFENSIBLE ON ITS MERITS. THE DECISION BY THE FAE TO OVERHAUL THESE AIRCRAFT RATHER THAN INVEST IN TOTALLY NEW JET TRAINERS REPRESENTS, IN OUR VIEW, A RATIONAL USE OF RESOURCES AND OFFERS CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS TO THE GOE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE USG, THROUGH THE GRANT OF FMS CREDITS, SHOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN INVESTING IN NEW, COSTLY EQUIPMENT. WE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH USG SUPPORT FOR THIS AIRCRAFT WILL END WITHIN FOUR YEARS, T-33, DO EXIST IN OTHER AIR FORCE INVENTORIES AND WE BEG EVE THE FAE WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN AND UTILIZE THE OVERHAULED AIRCRAFT FOR THE PERIOD OF THE FMS CREDIT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009